

ware, groceries, &c. In these minor lotteries, according to a statement made before the grand jury, in some instances no tickets are made, but numbers from 1 to 50, or 100, are set down in a book, and those who take chances pay a half or a quarter of a dollar, each, and write their names against such numbers in the book, as they may choose. When the drawing is to take place, the adventurers assemble in the store or shop, and those who are fortunate enough to draw prizes, are called upon to *treat* the company present with whatever they choose to call for. Such is stated, from official authority, to be the origin and progress of these minor lotteries. Their apparent insignificance enables them to escape with impunity; but they sow the seeds of wide spreading ruin and constantly increasing crime.

Many of the tickets exhibited to the grand jury, as evidence of the violation of the laws, purported to be tickets in lotteries granted by competent authority in other states. There is no doubt, however, that a considerable portion of them are spurious, and issued under no higher nor more responsible authority than that of a board of lottery brokers. Such tickets, there is good reason to believe, are manufactured in large quantities, and sold in all the large towns and manufacturing villages in the state, by pedlars, bar-keepers, travelling agents and others, who receive a commission for their services, and gain a livelihood by wages of iniquity.

After a careful examination of the existing statutes for the regulation and suppression of lotteries, and on endeavoring to discover their defects, the committee were led to reflect on the nature of the offence of dealing in lottery tickets and the remedies that it might be proper to adopt; and they ask leave to state, in as brief a manner as possible, their views on these two points.

And—*First*. What is the offence of dealing in lottery tickets?

To this question it may be answered:

1. It is *gaming*. This is against the policy of society, and there are a few civilized nations that have not adopted means to restrain or entirely prohibit it; because it is seeking property for which no equivalent is to be paid; and because it leads directly to losses and poverty, and, by exciting bad passions, is the fruitful original of vice and crime.

2. It is the *worst* species of gaming, because it brings ad-riotness, cunning, experience and skill, to contend against ignorance, folly, distress and desperation. It can be carried on to an indefinite and undefinable extent without exposure; and, by a mode of settling the chances by "combina-